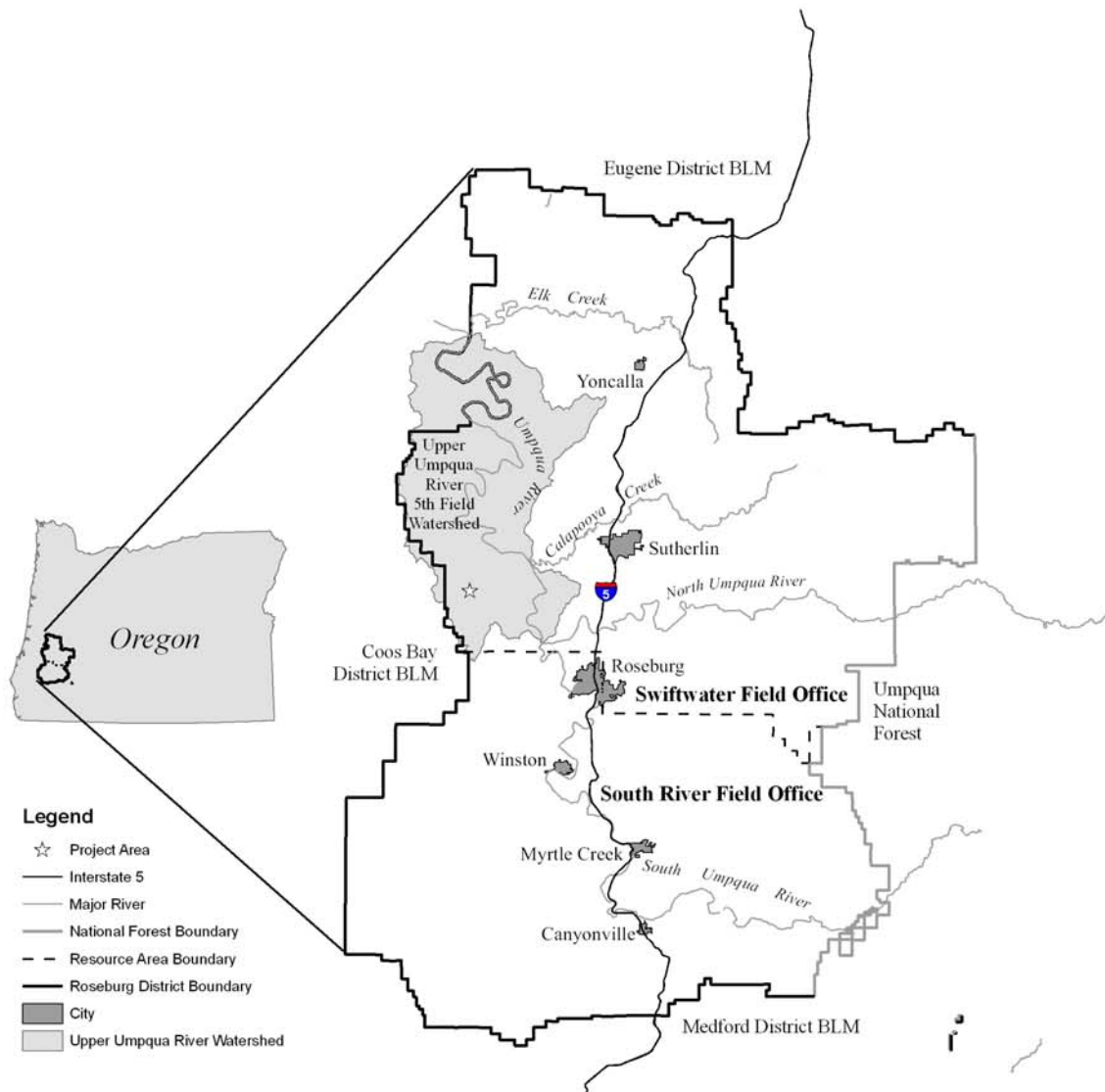


**U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg District, Oregon**



**U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roseburg BLM District, Oregon**

**Green Butte Density Management
Decision Document**

SECTION 1 – THE DECISION

Introduction

Green Butte is a forest density management project identified in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan (EA # OR -104-02-09) and its subsequent Decision Record (October 8, 2003). This decision is consistent with the Roseburg District Resource Management Plan (RMP) adopted in June 1995 and the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan. The implementation of this decision would meet the following objectives from the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan (pg. 2):

- For mid seral forests on BLM lands designated for wildlife and fish needs (Late-successional and Riparian Reserves, Connectivity Diversity Block), accelerate stand diversity and development of late-successional characteristics such as large crown ratios, larger lateral branches, multiple canopy layers, and a greater number of larger conifers while maintaining a healthy ecosystem.
- Accelerate and enhance the development of aquatic habitat characteristics such as instream structure, increased pools and gravels, and reduced bedrock dominated streams. Increase the access to spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish.

Decision

It is my decision to authorize implementation of the Green Butte Density Management timber sale in Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, T. 26 S., R. 7 W., W.M. following the project design features (PDFs) established in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan as adjusted in the Decision Record. This timber sale is located within the Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) land-use allocation. The stands that will be treated are second-growth forest between 33 to 66 years of age. Green Butte would provide approximately 5,850 MBF of merchantable timber available for auction. This decision is subject to administrative remedy under 43 CFR § 5003.2 and 5003.3. Figures 1 and 2 and Tables 1, 2, and 3 provide a summary of forest treatments that are part of this project.

Table 1. Activity Summary Table

	Density Management	379 acres
	Clear Cut (Right-of-Way, on BLM)	8 acres
	Clear Cut (Right-of-Way, on Pvt.)	1 acres
	Cable	227 acres
	Helicopter	83 acres
	Ground Based*	69 acres
	Wet or Dry Season	13.7 miles
	Dry Season	2.2 miles
	Total Haul	15.9 miles

Road Activities	Temporary Road Construction	1.8 miles
	Road Improvement	3.9 miles
	Road Renovation	10.2 miles
	Road Decommissioning w/ sub-soiling	2.2 miles
	Road Decommissioning w/o sub-soiling	0.4 miles
	Old and new tractor trails sub-soiling	3.0 miles
	Culverts/Cross Drains Maintained	68 culverts
	Culverts/Cross Drains Replaced	21 culverts
	New Culvert/Cross Drains Installed	10 culverts
	Hand Pile and Burn 50' of roads	32 acres
	Machine Pile and Burn 50' of landings	10 acres

*Up to 10 acres of additional, incidental ground-based logging could occur on areas designated for cable logging. This would include activities such as removal of guyline anchor trees and small isolated portions of the unit not readily yarded with a cable system.

Table 2. Silvicultural Prescription Summary Table.

6A(1)	12				0	0
5A(2)	15				0	0
5A(3)	6				0	0
5A(4)	229				7.9	8
5A(5)	50				.3	3
9A(6)	16				.5	1
9B(7)	51				.4	7

- Within harvest units, the following criteria are implemented to create variable stand density:
- Unthinned areas and varied densities within harvest units
 - Density management within the LSR has been marked as variable low-residual density to retain approximately 60-80 square feet of basal area and variable moderate-residual density to retain approximately 80-100 square feet of basal area.
 - High residual density thinning have been placed adjacent to contiguous blocks of existing late-successional habitat that are outside the harvest boundaries.
 - Variable no-harvest buffers have been placed around non-fish bearing streams. No-harvest means that some trees may be felled in these areas to create or enhance habitat but trees will not be commercially removed.
 - Prescriptions for tree marking have been designed to create variable spacing of remaining trees and protection of existing snags to the extent possible. Examples include occasionally leaving clumps of trees and clearing around large limbed trees, and varying the spacing to select a tree of particular species and/or growth form.

- The harvest methods that will be applied across the project area are presented in Table 3 “Harvest Operations Summary Table”.

Table 3. Harvest Operations Summary Table.

6A(1)	0	12	0
5A(2)	15	0	0
5A(3)	0	6	0
5A(4)	58	141	30
5A(5)	10	14	26
9A(6)	0	10	6
9B(7)	0	44	7

- An estimated 4.4 miles of existing asphalt roads, 5.4 miles of existing rocked roads, 0.4 miles of existing natural surface roads, will be renovated. Renovation is road work that brings a road back to its original design.
- An estimated 3.9 miles of existing roads will be improved. Road improvement is road work that improves a road beyond its original design. An example of road improvement is adding rock to an existing natural surface road.
- An estimated 1.8 miles of temporary spurs will be constructed for timber haul.
- An estimated 2.2 miles of natural surfaced roads will be decommissioned by blocking, water-barring, sub-soiling, and pulling slash and some top soil back onto the road surface, at the conclusion of timber harvest. If natural surface roads must be over wintered they will be water barred, mulched with straw, and blocked to vehicle traffic. The estimated total includes 1.8 miles of temporary roads and spurs used for timber haul, and .4 miles of old natural surface roads.
- An estimated 13.7 miles of rock or asphalt surfaced roads are designated as wet-or-dry season haul and an estimated 2.2 miles of natural surfaced roads and spurs are seasonally restricted for haul to the dry season.
- An estimated 32 acres will be handpiled and burned within 50 feet all roads in or next to harvest units 1,3,4,5, and 7. These roads provide public access, and the fuels treatment will reduce fuels and create a break in continuity of fuels.
- Slash within a 50 foot radius of landings will be machine piled and burned. The area within 50 feet of landings where this treatment will be accomplished is estimated at 10 acres.

- Snags and coarse woody debris (CWD) will be retained or created as described in the Project Design Features. Approximately 758 trees will be felled to create CWD, and 672 trees will be girdled to create snags.

Compliance and Monitoring

Compliance with this decision will be ensured by frequent on the ground inspections by the Contracting Officer's Representative. Monitoring will be conducted as per the direction given in Appendix I of the RMP (pgs. 189-209).

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

The following project design features and best management practices (BMPs) are adopted as part of the implementation of this decision to reduce adverse environmental impacts. They are designed to avoid, minimize or rectify impacts on resources. These measures will also help projects meet the objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

Seasonal Restrictions

Seasonal restrictions will be applied based on consultation criteria to reduce impacts to federally listed species and in accordance with BMPs to reduce sedimentation impacts to aquatic species, and to reduce soil compaction in order to maintain soil productivity. These restrictions are further described below.

Project Design Features to Minimize Effects to Wildlife Threatened & Endangered Species

Project design features for the Green Butte Density Management project were based on project design criteria from the following documents:

- Letter of Concurrence (LOC) regarding the Reinitiation of consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities (Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511 [June 24, 2005]),
 - LOC regarding the Reinitiation of Consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY2005-2008 Management Activities. Disturbance to marbled murrelets. (Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0596 [July 20, 2005]),
 - Programmatic Biological Opinion (BO) regarding the Roseburg Bureau of Land Management FY2005-2008 Management Activities (Ref. # 1-15-05-F-0512 [August 29, 2005]), and the
 - Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan Decision Record (October 8, 2003).
- Bald Eagle

There are no restrictions for bald eagles since there are no known bald eagle nest sites within 0.25 mile or 0.5 mile line-of-sight of the harvest units.
 - Northern Spotted Owl

Disturbance

There are seven known activity centers within 1.0 mile of the project area. Three of the seven known activity centers (Mill Trib 2207 and 2207A- adjacent to units 6 and 7; Green Butte MSNO 1357- north of unit 4 and to the northeast of unit 2) are located within 0.25 mile of the project area. .

- Activities will **not** occur within the appropriate restriction (disruption) distance (Table 4) of **any unsurveyed suitable habitat, known nest site or activity center** from **March 1 – June 30**, unless current calendar year surveys indicate: 1) spotted owls not detected, 2) spotted owls present, but not attempting to nest, or 3) spotted owls present, but nesting attempt has failed. Waiver of seasonal restriction is valid until March 1 of the following year. All units have unsurveyed suitable habitat within 35 yards of unit boundaries.

Table 4. Summary of Activities and Restriction (Disruption) Distances for the Northern Spotted Owl.

	1760 yards (1 mile)	7
	120 yards	0
	440 yards (0.25 mile)	3
	120 yards	0
	65 yards	0
	35 yards	0
	440 yards	3

Habitat

Suitable Habitat

- No suitable spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat will be removed or modified by this project.

Dispersal-only Habitat

- Approximately 379 acres of dispersal-only habitat will be degraded. A minimum average canopy closure of 40-60 percent will be maintained in thinned stands. Therefore, these stands are expected to retain dispersal function because post-project canopy cover will not fall below 40 percent.

➤ *Marbled Murrelet*

Disturbance

- This project is within the Marbled Murrelet Inland Management Zone 2 (within 35-50 miles of the coast). Activities will occur within Daily Operating Restrictions -between two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset- within the appropriate disruption distance (Table 5) of **any known occupied sites and unsurveyed suitable habitat** during the critical nesting period (**April 1 - August 5**).

- There are currently **no occupied sites** within 100 yards; but there is **unsurveyed suitable habitat within 100 yards of all units.**

Table 5. Summary of Activities and Restriction (Disruption) Distances for the Marbled Murrelet.

	1760 yards (1 mile)
	120 yards
	440 yards (0.25 mile)
	120 yards
	100 yards
	100 yards
	440 yards

Habitat

- In accordance with the Programmatic Biological Assessment for Roseburg BLM FY 2005-2008 Management Activities and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Letter of Concurrence for Not Likely to Adversely Affect Projects (Ref. # 1-15-05-I-0511), Residual Habitat Guidelines (from Appendix H of the Programmatic BO) will be implemented on this project. Project design features for maintaining suitable habitat conditions include the following:
 - Residual trees within mid-seral stands and adjacent habitat have been evaluated on the ground to determine their relationship with the surrounding stand in order to adjust thinning prescriptions.
 - Potential structure as defined in the Residual Habitat Guidelines will not be removed or damaged during thinning operations.
 - Thinning within 180 feet (one site potential tree height) of potential structure will protect and improve future habitat conditions. Thinning will aid limb development and the development of adjacent cover.
 - Gap openings, created by thinning, will not exceed 0.25 acre within 180 feet of potential structure.
 - The proposed project will not remove or modify suitable habitat. Residual trees and adjacent suitable habitat will be buffered with high residual density thinning prescriptions to avoid modification of suitable habitat and to protect the integrity of the existing suitable habitat. Design features will take into consideration topography, aspect, site growing conditions, and local wind patterns. Design criteria for maintaining suitable habitat conditions include:
 1. Mid-seral stands adjacent to suitable habitat will be treated to maintain interlocking canopies.
 2. Residual trees within mid-seral stands will be evaluated on the ground to determine its relationship with the surrounding stand. Adjacent trees that directly contribute to the microsite conditions of suitable nest structures will be maintained.

- Snags will be retained or created in the following manner in accordance with the LSRA guidance:
 - Whereas the LSRA refers to all snags, only snags greater than 20 inches DBH and greater than 16 feet tall were counted within the treatment area. Snags were located and assigned to either a north or south aspect using a topographic map. Approximately 337 snags meeting the above criteria were counted. When it is determined that there are less than three snags/acre on north slopes and one snag/acre on south slopes, snags will be created on a per acre basis from the larger diameter class of existing live trees to meet the minimum interim needs. Based on these criteria, the harvest units have a current deficit of 622 snags. Therefore, a total of 622 additional live trees will be girdled and recruited as snags of which 606 will be located on north facing aspects (N, NE, NW) and 16 will be located on south aspects (S, SE, SW).
 - Tree marking was designed to protect existing snags to the extent possible.
 - Those that pose a safety concern will be cut and left for coarse woody debris (CWD).
- Within Late-Successional and Riparian Reserves, CWD will be retained or created in the following manner in accordance with the LSRA guidance:
 - All existing CWD will be retained.
 - Two trees per acre (758 trees) will be felled for additional CWD recruitment.

Project Design Features to Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation Effects to Aquatic Species

To protect aquatic resources within riparian areas a variable width streamside no-harvest buffer has been established along all streams. In general, the buffer width averages about 40 feet from the outer edge of the active stream channel for all non-fish bearing streams. There are no fish-bearing streams adjacent to the harvest units. The buffer width varies to include areas of instability, wide areas of riparian vegetation, or sensitive areas identified during site review. Variation in the non-fish bearing stream buffer was based on site level review of soils, hydrology, fisheries, vegetation, and riparian habitat.

- A buffer of at least one retention tree has been maintained along the stream bank for bank stability. Minimum buffer widths have been used primarily on first or second order, ephemeral or highly interrupted intermittent streams, which lack riparian vegetation and where riparian habitat components, soil stability issues, and potential impact to downstream fisheries are also absent. Management within the buffer could include selected felling and/or girdling of trees where doing so will benefit riparian habitat. Trees will not be commercially removed from this buffer area.
- Stream channels and riparian habitat will be protected from logging damage by directionally felling trees, which are within 100 feet of streams, away from the streams and yarding logs away from or parallel to the streams. Because of the no-harvest buffers, yarding corridors parallel to non-fish bearing streams will be at least 40 feet away from the edge of the active streams.

- Skyline yarding is required where cable logging is specified. This method will limit ground disturbance by requiring at least partial suspension during yarding. In some limited, isolated areas partial suspension (outside no-harvest buffers) may not be physically possible due to terrain or lateral yarding. For all cable yarding, corridors generally less than 15 feet in width will be utilized.
- Cable yarding trails with excessive soil furrowing will be water-barred and covered with slash.
- No ground-based or cable yarding will occur in or through the no-harvest buffers.
- Additional trees have been retained above 26-7-11.0 road cut bank in Unit 4, to minimize the risk of cutbank failure.

Project Design Features to Minimize Effects of New Road Construction and Road Use

- **Temporary Roads** – All temporary roads will be sub-soiled, water barred, slash and some top soil will be pulled back onto the road surface as inoculants, and closed to vehicular traffic including OHV, at the conclusion of timber harvest. If natural surface roads must be over wintered they will be water barred, mulched with straw, and blocked to vehicle traffic.
- The new, temporary road construction will be located away from streams to reduce sedimentation risks. Roads will be located on ridge tops and stable slopes that do not exceed 30 percent. Road construction would only occur during dry periods of the year, usually defined as May 15 to October 15.
- **Existing Unsurfaced Permanent Roads** – The 26-7-9.4 road is currently closed due to down trees. The road accesses private land and may be used in the future. The road will be opened, renovated, and closed after use. The closure will be accomplished using a trench barrier after it has been waterbarred for proper drainage, and slash has been pulled back onto the road surface to discourage traffic (RMP BMPs # C. 14, pg. 133).
- Over-wintering an unsurfaced road for use the following dry season will be allowed in limited cases when the unit size and degree of seasonal restrictions make completing harvest within one dry season impractical. Over-wintering roads will also require water-barring, mulching with straw, and blocking to traffic.
- All haul routes used during wet season hauling will be inspected prior to and during haul activities to assess the road condition. When it is determined that the haul will cause resource damage it will be suspended.
- Where winter haul occurs along a route with defined stream crossings, road design is determined to be adequate or will be improved. Project design features that reduce sedimentation such as silt fences, gravel lifts, and weather dependant operation specifications are designed to prevent sediment contribution to live streams. Activities would be suspended when stream sedimentation levels exceed background levels. The

suspension will be lifted when conditions improve or remediation measures are implemented.

- Existing roads will be renovated or improved by adding crushed rock and culverts. This work would consist brushing to clear roads of vegetation, blading and grading of road surfaces, cleaning ditches, maintaining, replacing, and adding culverts, and adding new or additional crushed rock surfacing. There are 68 existing culverts that will receive maintenance. There are 21 existing culverts that will be replaced, and 10 new culvert installations.

Project Design Features to Maintain Soil Productivity

- Ground-based operations will only occur during dry periods of the year (generally, May 15) to the onset of regular fall rains (generally, October 15) or as determined by onsite examination.
- Shovel yarders would “walk” over as much slash as can safely be negotiated, and avoid more than one pass in swinging logs and piling slash to roads or designated trails.
- Forwarder trails will be designated. Harvesters will de-limb in front of the machine tracks or tires in order to reduce compaction. The forwarder will operate on branch and limb covered areas traversed by the harvester.
- Main skid trails, landings and log deck areas will occupy less than 10 percent of the ground-based portions of the units. A main skid trail is defined as a trail in which duff and slash is displaced such that 50 percent or more of the surface area of the trail is exposed to mineral soil.
- Skid trails which were created by prior entries will be reused to the extent practical. Such skid trails that are used would be included in the 10 percent limit of the ground-based portions of the units.
- Ground based operations will be limited to slopes generally less than 35 percent. In Unit 5 south of the 26-7-8.4, only a harvester will be allowed on 45 percent slopes or less. Equipment will stay off swale bottoms and low depressions if the soils remain wet (greater than 20 percent moisture) during operations.
- To mitigate for soil compaction, approximately 1.8 miles of temporary roads, 0.4 miles of old natural surface roads not used for this density management, and 3.0 miles of old and new tractor trails will be sub-soiled.
- Burning of slash piles will occur during the late fall to mid-spring season when the soil and duff layer (soil surface layer consisting of fine organic material) moisture levels are high (BMP III D1b, pg. 140) and the large down logs have not dried. This practice will protect the soil duff layer and down logs from being totally consumed by fire and the surface layer from being negatively impacted (i.e., loss of organic matter, erosion, change of soil physical properties, alteration of soil ecology and soil nutrients).

Project Design Features to Minimize Effects from Noxious Weeds

- Project level weed surveys and watershed level weed inventories have been performed.
- Prior to ground disturbance, existing Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom weed infestations within the project area will be treated as follows below:
 - The Roseburg District is currently operating under weed management policy and guidelines established in the Roseburg District Integrated Weed Control Plan Environmental Assessment, March 1995.
 - The project area was mechanically and chemically treated in FY2006.
 - The project area will be monitored for treatment effectiveness and follow up treatments will be conducted as necessary.
- Construction and logging equipment/machinery associated with ground disturbance will be cleaned prior to moving into the proposed project area to remove weed seed and help control or prevent the spread of noxious weed seed.
- Areas of ground disturbance will be reseeded with native grass seed or a suitable alternative following ground disturbance. Certified weed free seed will be used in revegetation projects.

Miscellaneous Project Design Features

- **Hazardous materials** (particularly petroleum products) will be stored in durable containers and located so that any accidental spill will be contained. All landing and work site trash and logging materials will be removed. Equipment that leaks hazardous materials will not be allowed instream. Accidental spills or discovery of the dumping of any hazardous materials will be reported to the Sale Administrator. Procedures outlined in the “Roseburg District Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Emergency Response Contingency Plan” will be followed.
- **Cultural resources** - A cultural resource inventory was completed. No significant cultural resources were identified. Stipulations will be placed in the contracts to halt operations in the event of inadvertent discoveries of new cultural resource sites (e.g. historical or prehistorical ruins, graves, fossils or artifacts)

References

- Foster, C. C., E. D. Forsman, E. C. Meslow, G. S. Miller, J. A. Reid, F. F. Wagner, A. B. Carey, and J. B. Lint. 1992. Survival and reproduction of radio-marked adult spotted owls. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 56: 91-95.
- Lint, J. B., B. Noon, R. Anthony, E. Forsman, M. Raphael, M. Collopy, and E. Starkey. 1999. Northern Spotted Owl Effectiveness Monitoring Plan for the Northwest Forest Plan. General Technical Report PNW-GTR-440. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, Oregon, USA. 43pp.
- USDA. 1988. Study Plan: Demographic Characteristics of Spotted Owl Populations in the Oregon Coast Range and Olympic Peninsula of Washington. U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, Oregon, USA. 16pp.

SECTION 3 – THE DECISION RATIONALE

This decision implements the guidance provided in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan Decision signed October 8, 2003 for that portion of the plan covering the Green Butte project area. It incorporates the “adjustments made” as described in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan decision (pgs. 3-9).

The PDFs listed above will minimize soil compaction, limit erosion, protect slope stability, protect wildlife, protect air and water quality, and protect fish habitat, as well as protect other identified resource values. I have reviewed the resource information contained in Table 6 “Summary of Effects of the Action” (below) and in Appendices A-K (attached). This decision recognizes that impacts could occur to some of these resources; however, the impacts to resource values will not exceed those identified in the *Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (PRMP/EIS, 1994). This decision provides timber commodities resulting from silvicultural treatments whose effects to the environment are within those anticipated and already analyzed in the RMP/EIS.

As a result of this decision, the density management actions that will be undertaken to accomplish terrestrial habitat objectives are only initial steps in a long-term process. This is an integral aspect of the adaptive management concept built into the Northwest Forest Plan and the RMP. The variable low-residual and moderate-residual density thinning in the Green Butte project will develop late-successional characteristics more quickly which will, in turn, improve the quality of dispersal habitat for the spotted owl, as well as provide future nesting habitat for the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. It is expected that additional silvicultural treatments of the affected stands will be required at some point in the future in this long-term process to accomplish terrestrial habitat objectives. However, this decision neither determines the nature of those future actions, nor places constraints on them.

I have reviewed the public comments from the Upper Umpqua EA (see Section 4). My predecessor provided additional time for interested parties to develop input and to participate in a field tour of the project area. This interactive participation resulted in substantive adjustments in the proposed action initially presented in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan EA. These adjustments were incorporated in the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan Decision signed October 8, 2003 and subsequently in the PDFs for this project.

The Swiftwater Field Office is aware of the August 1, 2005, U.S. District Court order in Northwest Ecosystem Alliance et al. v. Rey et al. which found portions of the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (January, 2004) (EIS) inadequate. The Swiftwater Field Office is also aware of the recent January 9, 2006, Court order which:

- set aside the 2004 Record of Decision *To Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern spotted Owl* (March, 2004) (2004 ROD) and
- reinstate the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measure Standards and*

Guidelines (January, 2001) (2001 ROD), including any amendments or modifications in effect as of March 21, 2004.

The order further directs, "Defendants shall not authorize, allow, or permit to continue any logging or other ground-disturbing activities....unless such activities are in compliance with the provisions of the 2001 ROD (as amended or modified as of March 21, 2004)".

The litigation over the amendment that eliminated the Survey & Manage mitigation measure from the Northwest Forest Plan does not affect Green Butte Density Management. This is because biological surveys for Survey & Manage species meet the 2001 ROD as amended or modified as of March 21, 2004. Even though the Survey & Manage program had been eliminated, the Swiftwater Field Office conducted surveys (April 2005) consistent with Survey & Manage survey protocols.

The Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan EA (pg. 35) which was signed October 8, 2003 tiers to the 2001 EIS and identifies plan conformance with the 2001 ROD. The Swiftwater Field Office re-examined the individual project record for Green Butte in light of the Court ordered remedy. The Swiftwater Field Office completed pre-disturbance surveys, equivalent-effort surveys, and management of known sites required by protocol standards to comply with the *2001 Record of Decision and Standard and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (as the 2001 ROD was amended or modified as of March 21, 2004) for Green Butte Density Management. I have attached the documentation of the wildlife and botany compliance reviews undertaken by this office with my concurrence and signature to this decision.

There are no known Category B, D, E, and F species as identified in the 2001 ROD (as modified) within the Green Butte project area. Based on the survey results, there are currently no known sites of Survey & Manage species that require management within the project area.

Therefore, based on the preceding information regarding the status of surveys for Survey & Manage wildlife and botany species and the results of those surveys, it is my determination that the Green Butte Density Management complies with the provisions of the 2001 ROD, as amended or modified as of March 21, 2004. For the foregoing reasons, this decision is in compliance with the 2001 ROD as stated in Point (3) on page 14 of the January 9, 2006, Court order.

SECTION 4 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

For the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan Environmental Assessment, comments were solicited from affected tribal governments, adjacent landowners and affected State and local government agencies. No comments were received from these sources. During the seventy-five day public review period for the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan, comments were received from four individuals or organizations. As previously described in Section 3, comments and subsequent interaction with the public helped formulate the Upper Umpqua Watershed Plan decision (October 8, 2003) and is reflected in both that decision (pgs. 3-9) and the PDFs for this project as described here (February 24, 2006).

No further comments or information have been received pertaining to the design of the Green Butte Density Management project.

SECTION 5 – PROTEST PROCEDURES

The decision described in this document is a forest management decision and is subject to protest by the public. In accordance with Forest Management Regulations at 43 CFR § 5003 Administrative Remedies, protests of this decision may be filed with the authorized officer [Marci Todd] within 15 days of the publication date of the notice of decision/timber sale advertisement in *The News-Review*, Roseburg, Oregon.

43 CFR 5003.3 subsection (b) states that: “Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer and shall contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision.” This precludes the acceptance of electronic mail or facsimile protests. Only written and signed hard copies of protests that are delivered to the Roseburg District Office will be accepted. The protest must clearly and concisely state the reasons why the decision is believed to be in error.

Protests received more than 15 days after the publication of the notice of decision/timber sale advertisement are not timely filed and shall not be considered. Upon timely filing of a protest, the authorized officer shall reconsider the decision to be implemented in light of the statement of reasons for the protest and other pertinent information available to her. The authorized officer shall, at the conclusion of her review, serve her decision in writing to the protesting party. Upon denial of a protest the authorized officer may proceed with the implementation of the decision.

For further information, contact Marci Todd, Field Manager, Swiftwater Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd; Roseburg, OR. 97470, 541 440-4931.

Marci L. Todd, Field Manager
Swiftwater Field Office

Date

Table 6. Summary of Effects of the Action: Green Butte Density Management.

Cultural Resources.	Surveys were conducted for cultural resources and Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act were completed, in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols. No significant cultural or historic resources were identified. The only resource identified (a generic logging feature) is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register.	There will be no impacts to national register eligible cultural or historical resources.
Federally threatened (FT) Kincaid's lupine and the federally endangered (FE) rough popcorn flower .	Surveys were completed (August, 2005) and no sites were discovered.	No impacts to these two federally listed plant species will occur since there are no known sites within the project area.
Survey & Manage (S&M) Species.	Surveys were completed April 2005 and no sites of S&M botanical species were discovered.	There is no impact on S&M botanical species.
Bureau Sensitive (BS), Assessment (BA), and Tracking (BT) Species.	Surveys for BS, BA, and BT botanical species were completed (April - August, 2005) and no sites were discovered.	No impacts to BS, BA, or BT botanical species will occur since there are no known sites within the project area.
Noxious weeds (i.e. Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom) in the project area.	The project area contains approximately 18 acres of mainline road which are infested with Himalayan blackberry (approx. 15 acres) and Scotch broom (approx. 13 acres).	The roads were treated both chemically and mechanically in FY2005. The project area will be monitored for treatment effectiveness and follow-up treatments will be conducted as necessary. The PDFs included in this project will minimize the spread of noxious weeds.
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for	Conservation measures incorporated	Project will not adversely affect EFH.

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
Coho Salmon and Chinook salmon.	into the PDFs will prevent adverse effects to EFH.	
Bureau Sensitive (BS), Assessment (BA), and Tracking (BT) Species.	Umpqua Chub (BS) and Pacific Lamprey (BT) are suspected within the project area and Oregon Coast coho salmon (BS) and Coastal Cutthroat (BT) are documented.	PDFs will minimize soil erosion and sedimentation effects to aquatic species and aquatic habitat.
Peak Flows within the Analytical Hydrologic Units (AHU).	Density management is not expected to have any measurable impact on peak flow within fish-bearing waters below the treatment areas. At the project level there may be increases in peak flows during smaller storm events (less than two year interval) in small non-fish bearing streams.	No measurable change in peak flows.
Sedimentation (excludes landslide effects).	PDFs will minimize soil erosion and sedimentation effects to aquatic species and aquatic habitat. Sediment produced, as a result of haul, would be of such small magnitude that it would not be meaningfully measurable.	Sedimentation would be maintained at levels indistinguishable from background levels or haul would be suspended.
Mass Wasting and Landslides.	The probability of landslides will be slightly elevated in the short term, but would still be in the low range of incidents (less than 10%). Incidents would decrease in the short term (10 years).	The actions authorized under this decision do not change the probability of landslides or mass wasting events. Occurrences would be low and size would be small (less than 0.1 acre) and would not impact streams. Mass Wasting and Landslides effects on soil productivity would be negligible.
Soil Productivity (excludes landslide effects).	It is estimated that there will be a net improvement to soil productivity by subsoiling compaction of 2.2 miles of road and 3.0 miles of tractor trails.	PDFs will maintain, if not improve, soil productivity. Sub-soiling amelioration will accelerate the long-term recovery of soil productivity.

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
Wildlife (refer to <i>Appendices G, H, I, and J</i> for details).		
In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been completed for the federally threatened (FT) bald eagle, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet and for spotted owl critical habitat and marbled murrelet critical habitat.	<p>Consultation documents for Reinitiation of Consultation on Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management FY 2005-2008 Management Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmatic Biological Opinion (Ref. #1-15-05-F-0512), August 29, 2005. • Letter of Concurrence (LOC) for Not Likely to Adversely Affect projects (NLAA) (Ref. #1-15-05-I-0511), June 24, 2005. • LOC for Disturbance to marbled murrelets (Ref. #1-15-05-I-0596), July 20, 2005. 	The LOCs rendered by the USFWS concluded that this action is <i>not likely to adversely affect</i> the bald eagle, spotted owl, spotted owl critical habitat, murrelet critical habitat (pg. 30, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0511) or the marbled murrelet (pg. 7, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0596). PDFs will be implemented in compliance with both the BO and LOCs.
Bald Eagle.	<p>No noise/visual disruption (disturbance) effects to bald eagles will occur due to this action.</p> <p>No removal or modification of suitable habitat.</p>	<p>There are no known bald eagle nest sites within 0.25 mile or 0.5 mile line-of-site of the harvest units.</p> <p>Residual Habitat Guidelines for marbled murrelets will maintain suitable habitat for bald eagles.</p>
<p>Northern Spotted Owl- Disruption (disturbance) during critical breeding season (March 1- June 30).</p> <p>There are seven northern spotted owl known activity centers located within 1.0 mile of the proposed harvest units. Three of the seven activity centers are located within 0.25 mile of the proposed harvest units.</p>	There will be no noise/visual disruption (disturbance) effects to northern spotted owls.	<p>No disruption (disturbance) effects to spotted owls will occur since PDFs would be adhered to as described in this document (pg. 5).</p> <p>The USFWS concurs that the density management activities are <i>not likely to adversely affect</i> spotted owls (pg. 19, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0511).</p>
Northern Spotted Owl- Habitat	No suitable nesting, roosting, and foraging (NRF) habitat will be modified or	The treated stands will not be modified below 40 percent canopy cover; therefore

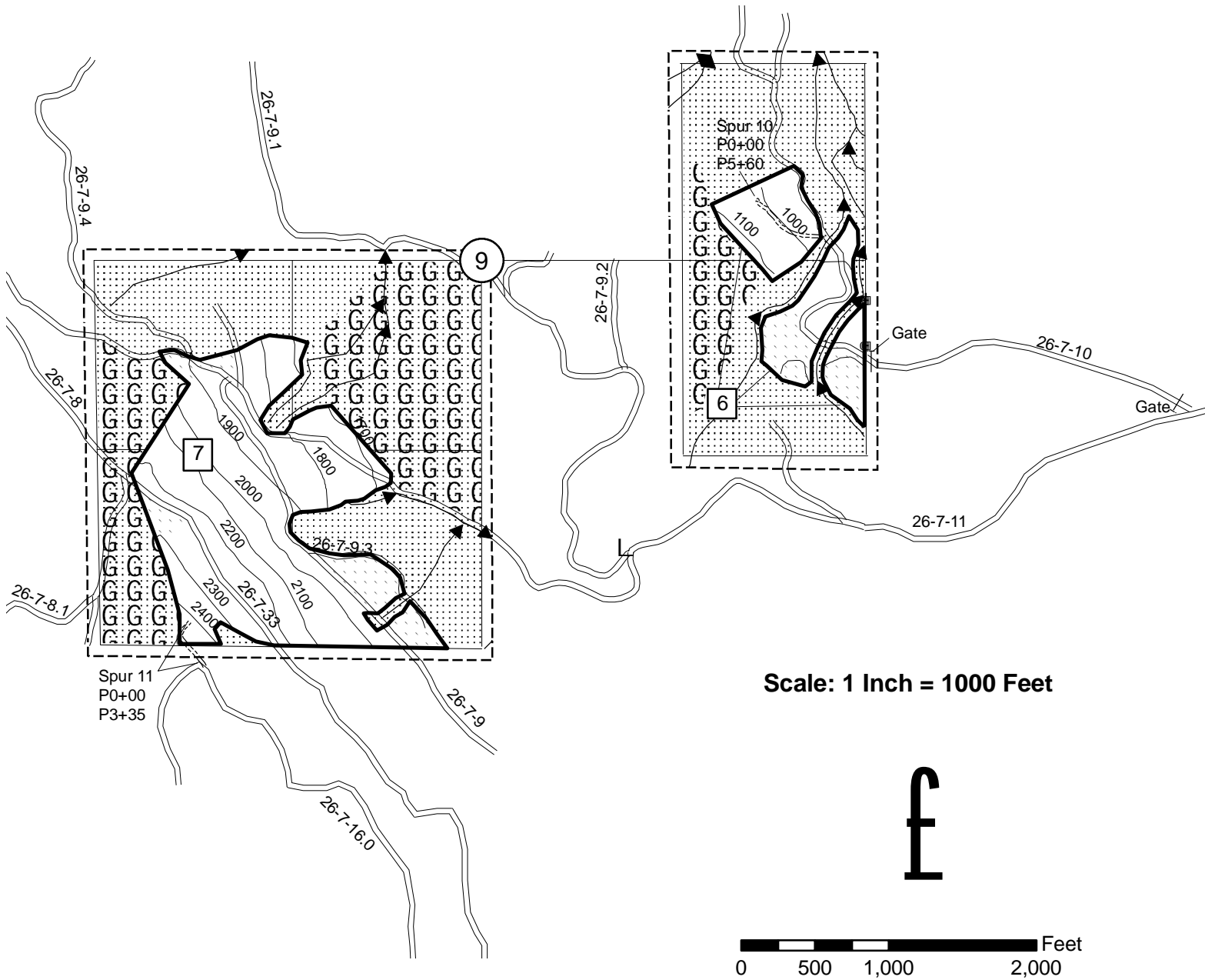
Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
<p>There are nine known northern spotted owl activity centers within 1.5 miles (Coast Range provincial home range) of the proposed project area.</p>	<p>removed. Density management will temporarily degrade 379 acres of dispersal habitat.</p>	<p>the stands will still function as dispersal habitat. Treatment of the mid-seral stands will improve the quality of dispersal habitat within 5-10 years and will diversify the forest for spotted owls by developing larger diameter trees with multiple canopy layers over the next 150 years. Thus, this action will facilitate the development of late-successional characteristics within each of the nine spotted owl activity centers, increasing the amount of suitable habitat available earlier than through natural stand development. The USFWS concurs that this action is <i>not likely to adversely affect</i> spotted owls (pg. 19, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0511).</p>
<p>Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl This project is within CHU-OR-58.</p>	<p>There are 15,777 acres of federally administered lands within CHU-OR-58, of which 2 percent (379 acres) would be modified by this decision.</p>	<p>The USFWS concurs that the density management activities will <i>not adversely affect</i> spotted owl critical habitat (pg. 28, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0511).</p>
<p>Marbled Murrelet – Disruption (disturbance) during critical breeding season (April 1- August 5). The project area is located 36.5-40.0 miles from the coast (within Zone 2).</p>	<p>There is unsurveyed suitable habitat within 100 yards of all the proposed units and within 0.25 mile of some of the landings/flight paths that will be used for helicopter yarding.</p>	<p>The PDFs will restrict activities so that this action will minimize noise disruption (disturbance) to nesting marbled murrelets. The USFWS concurs that the density management activities are not likely to adversely affect marbled murrelets (pg. 7, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0596).</p>
<p>Marbled Murrelet - Habitat</p>	<p>Suitable nesting habitat will not be removed within or adjacent to the project area. A 100-foot light-treatment (high-residual retention) buffer will be</p>	<p>Density management will facilitate the development of future nesting habitat by increasing tree and limb growth rates; fostering the development of nesting</p>

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
	<p>maintained between adjacent suitable habitat and the treatment area.</p> <p>Within the stands prescribed for density management under this decision, surveys for trees with suitable platform structures were conducted (March-May, 2005) and any found were tagged and marked for retention. Fifty potential nest trees were marked within the harvest units.</p>	<p>platforms. In addition, thinning younger trees from around the older, large limbed trees would allow greater access for nesting providing an opportunity for murrelets to occupy these stands earlier.</p> <p>The USFWS concurs that the density management activities are <i>not likely to adversely affect</i> marbled murrelets (pg. 9, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0511).</p>
<p>Critical Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet</p> <p>This project is within CHU-OR-04-e.</p>	<p>There are 53,097 acres of federally administered lands within CHU-OR-04-e, of which < 1 percent (379 acres) would be modified by the density management.</p>	<p>Density management will accelerate and enhance the development of late-successional stand characteristics as discussed previously.</p> <p>The USFWS concurs that the density management activities will <i>not adversely affect</i> marbled murrelet critical habitat (pg. 16, LOC, Ref. #1-15-05-I-0511).</p>
<p>Fringed myotis (Bureau Assessment) and Townsend's big-eared bat (Bureau Sensitive)</p>	<p>Residual late-seral/old-growth trees present in the units possess the deeply furrowed bark and deformities that make them suitable bat roosts. Survey results indicate that there are also approximately 0.9 conifer snags/acre \geq 20 inches dbh and > 16 feet tall in the harvest units (Gayner, field review June/2005) which are assumed to be suitable for bats.</p> <p>It is unknown if the Townsend's big-eared bat or the fringed myotis is present within the harvest units because these bats may roost high within the canopy so surveys are not practical.</p>	<p>It is unknown how many (if any) suitable bat roost trees are actually occupied. Existing snag habitat is expected to be retained in the harvest units due to the protection afforded them by the PDFs. Additionally, green trees retained as part of the density management prescription will serve as future recruitment for bat habitat as the trees develop late-successional characteristics.</p>
<p>Survey & Manage (S&M) Species.</p>	<p>There are no S&M wildlife species that</p>	<p>There is no impact on S&M wildlife</p>

Context (What?)	Intensity (How Much?)	Reason for not being Significant.
	require surveys within the project area. There are no known sites of S&M wildlife species within the project area.	species.
Remaining Bureau Sensitive (BS) and Bureau Assessment (BA) Species.	Evaluation of the remaining BS and BA wildlife species was completed in May 2006 and no known sites or concerns were identified.	No impacts to the remaining BS or BA wildlife species will occur since there are no known sites within the project area.
Bureau Tracking (BT) Species.	There are no documented observations of BT species in the project area.	Districts are encouraged to collect occurrence data on BT species but they will not be considered as Special Status Species for management purposes (IM-OR-2003-054).

Figure 1. Green Butte Density Management

District	Township	Range	Section	Meridian
ROSEBURG	26S	7W	9	Willamette

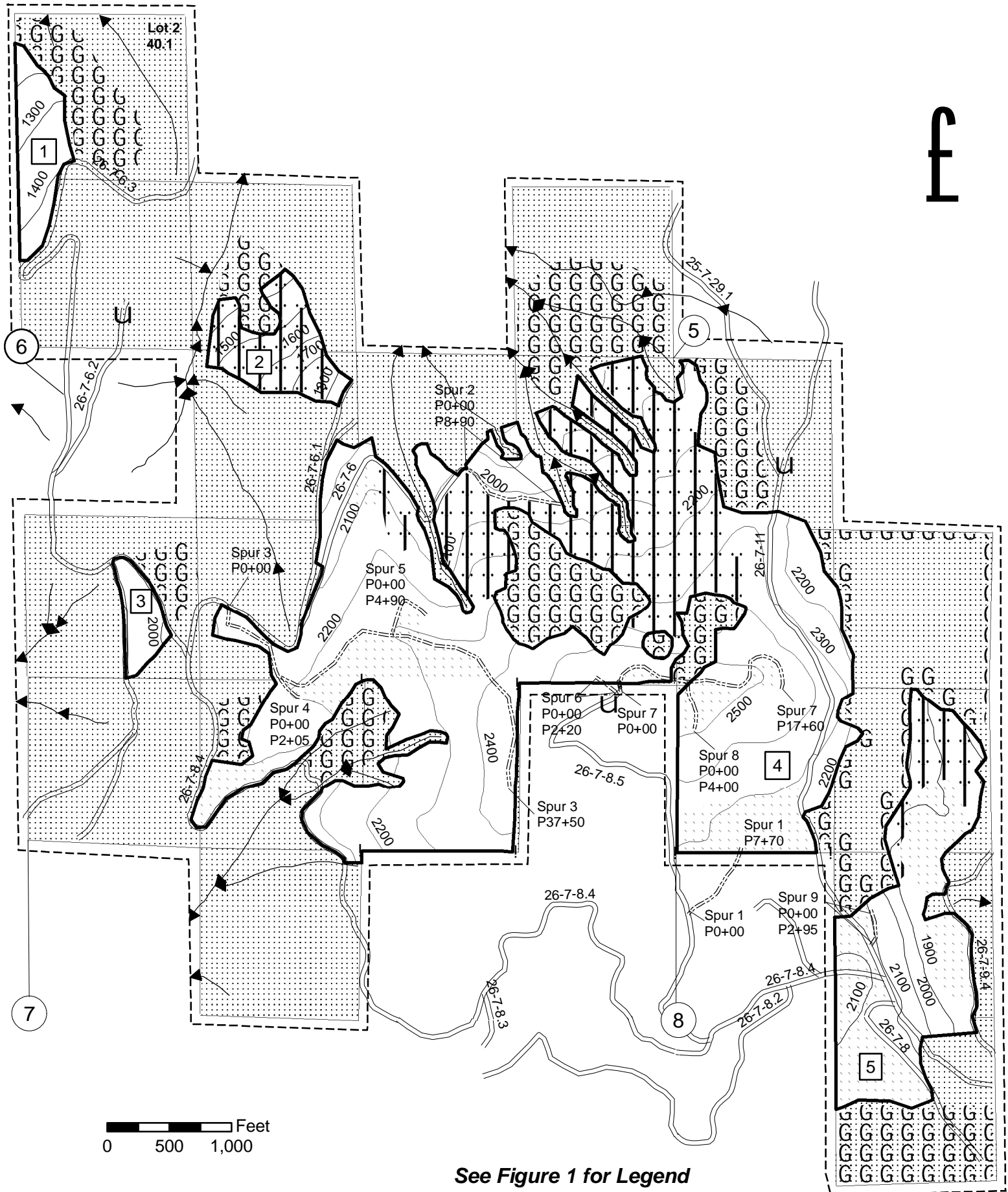


Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|
| | Harvest Area - Cable Yarding | | Existing Road |
| | Harvest Area - Ground-Based Yarding | | Existing Road to be Renovated |
| | Harvest Area - Aerial Yarding | | Temporary Spur to be Constructed |
| | Reserve Area | | Stream |
| | Reserve Area - Marbled Murrelet Habitat | | 100 Ft. Contour Lines |
| | Found Corner | | Boundary of Cutting Area |
| | Helicopter Landing Area | | Boundary of Contract Area |
| | Rock Stockpile | | Fence |

Figure 2. Green Butte Density Management

District	Township	Range	Section	Meridian
ROSEBURG	26S	7W	5, 6, 7 & 8	WILLAMETTE



See Figure 1 for Legend